P.S.
Please thank Lillian for her kind letter.

5/18/81

Dear Harold,

I'm very pleased to hear that you're feeling better.

I did not know Dick Bernabei well but Dave Sokleiak, who did, told me that Bernabei's deterioration into madness and alcoholism was terrifying. No one could reach him.

I've often pondered the reasons for your critical neglect. Certain valid objections could be raised. Structural weakness. Certain failures of organization. Over-writing, lacunae, repetition. Then, you are a writer whose work transcends his "placed" genre of Assassination Buff Literature, a false genre.

This has been the fate of many great artists. Conrad and Melville were once perceived as writers of "sea adventures", the early Faulkner as a "potboiler", film directors Robert Aldrich and Nick Ray as "Hollywood hacks", the artist Rousseau as a failed "academic", Philip K. Dick as a "science fiction" author----. The list is huge.

Many great works were commercial and critical failures. Witness the reception of La Chartreuse de Parme

and *Moby Dick* - one edition in its day and mostly unsold!
Your case is different. Tom Wicker tells this anecdote on himself in *On Press*. P. 190/2. Viking Press. 1978.
"On the week-end of *1/4/64* at the L.B.J. Ranch, Johnson had described to me and Doug Kiker and Phil Potter (Baltimore Sun!) his own shock at first learning of some of the black activities of the CIA - including, Johnson said flatly, complicity in the murders of Trujillo and Diem. We carefully entered on a cryptic note (Trujillo and Diem) lest the notes fall into *irresponsible* hands."

Does *anything* better explain your critical neglect! The writers of Pravda well grasp *this* standard of editorial freedom. Solzhenitsyn put it well - "The Rulers Change, The Archipelago remains".

You are an American Solzhenitsyn an historical witness who documented an American concentration camp of the mind historiography. *Post-Mortem* is the definitive work but your oeuvre represents one huge, single critique of American Society, a factual Balzacian opus.

You should take it easy. Perhaps, tape your memoirs. What a rich work!

My family, on both sides, are Society of Mayflower Descendants. Is that similar to Lillian?

I have always felt there was forgery or false autopsy data or The Government couldn't have *risked* even The Clark/Rockefeller H.S.C.A panels. I suspect actual photographs out of another person! Lifton, using much of your works, is right in crying "fraud", wrong in his gripping "solution". Take care.
Best Wishes,